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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
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10/505,392

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Peter J Dronzek JR.

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HEDMAN & COSTIGAN P.C.
1185 AVENUE OF THE AMERICAS
NEW YORK, NY 10036

EXAMINER

CHANG, VICTOR S

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

1794

MAIL DATE

DELIVERY MODE

04/08/2008

PAPER

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Office Action Summary	Application No. 10/505,392	Applicant(s) DRONZEK ET AL.	
	Examiner Victor S. Chang	Art Unit 1794	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 19 February 2008.
- 2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1,3-6 and 8-53 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) 12-53 is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1, 3-6 and 8-11 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
- ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 - ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 - ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413) |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 3) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application |
| Paper No(s)/Mail Date <u>2/26/08</u> . | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

Introduction

1. Applicants' amendments and remarks filed on 2/19/2008 have been entered. Claim 1 has been amended. Claims 1, 3-6 and 8-11 are active.
2. The text of those sections of Title 35, U.S. Code not included in this action can be found in a prior Office action.
3. In response to the amendment, the grounds of rejection have been rewritten as set forth below.

Claim Objections

4. Claim 1 is objected to because of the following informalities: at line 22, the phrase "said fourth layer ... (iv)" has an apparent error, because layer (iv) is third layer (see line 10) and there is no antecedent basis of fourth layer. Appropriate correction is required.

Rejections Based on Prior Art

5. Claims 1, 3-6 and 8-11 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Fischer [US 6328340] in view of Caputo et al. [US 4840270].

Fischer's invention relates to a form having a detachable card. Fig. 1 shows a form sheet 1 of paper and a piece of a substrate material 2. The substrate 2 further comprises a substrate layer 21, a peeling adhesive layer 22, an outer layer 23, and a permanent pressure-sensitive adhesive layer 24. The substrate 2 is adhered to the lower surface of form 1 by means of the

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permanent pressure-sensitive adhesive layer 24. A piece of a covering material 4, which comprises an outer layer 41 and a permanent pressure-sensitive adhesive layer 42, is provided on the front of the form. The outer layers 23 and 41 are transparent plastic films, such as polyester films [col. 4, lines 46-57]. A punching (die cut) runs all the way through the layers 41, 42, 1, 24, 23 and 22 and reaching down as far as the substrate layer 21 [col. 4, line 62 through col. 5, line 5]. During detaching of the card 3, the peeling adhesive 22 is completely detached from the substrate layer 21 and stays with the card. The peeling adhesive layer 22 has a non-permanent adhesive effect with respect to the substrate 21 and a permanent adhesive effect with respect to the outer layer 23 [col. 5, lines 12-16]. The different adhesive effects with respect to the substrate layer 21 and the outer layer 23 can be achieved by a suitable process control and/or different pretreatment of the surfaces of the layers 21 and 23 [col. 3, lines 28-36]. The detachment from the substrate material 21 has caused layer 22 to lose its stickiness, so that the card 3 is not self-adhesive, and the no longer sticky peeling adhesive layer can be written or printed [col. 5, lines 19-22].

For claims 1, 5 and 8-11, Fischer teaches all the claimed features, except being silent about 1) the surface treatments on the upper surface of substrate layer 21 (i.e., layer (iv) of claimed invention) and lower surface of 23 (i.e., layer (iii) of claimed invention) are characterized by differential treatment patterns of treated area and non-treated area, 2) the percentage of treated area. However, regarding item 1), Caputo's invention relates to a resealable label flap. Fig.1 illustrates that a selected zone of a surface has been corona treated (differentially treated). The pressure sensitive label-flap is adhered to both untreated and a circular corona treated area (a closed curve). The thermoplastic surface treated with a corona

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discharge provides a surface for a stronger bond between to the pressure sensitive adhesive and the remaining untreated surface provides a weaker bond with the same pressure sensitive adhesive. Since Fischer teaches that the different adhesive effects with respect to the substrate layer 21 and the outer layer 23 can be achieved by a suitable process control and/or different pretreatment of the surfaces of the layers 21 and 23, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art of surface treatment to select Caputo's differential treatment pattern to obtain the required level of adhesion, because the selection of a known material based on its suitability for its intended use supported a *prima facie* obviousness determination. See MPEP § 2144.07. Regarding item 2), since Caputo shows the differentially treated structure effects the releasability of the adhesive to the label flap, a workable percentage of treated area over the surface to achieve the required adhesiveness is deemed to be an obvious routine optimization to one skilled in the art, motivated by the desire to obtain the required adhesiveness dictated by the same end use. Regarding the terms "pattern" and "alternating areas of easy and tight separation", since Caputo teaches a selected zone of a surfaced has been corona treated, it is interpreted as inherently has a pattern of corona treated area, and the treated and untreated area reads on the limitation "alternating areas of easy and tight separation".

For claims 3 and 4, Fischer is silent about the thickness of polyester film layer and the weight basis of the paper stock. However, since Fischer teaches the generally same subject matter for the same use (detachable card intermediate) as the instant invention, a workable thickness of polyester film and weight basis of paper stock are deemed to be either anticipated by Fischer, or obvious routine optimizations to one skilled in the art of detachable card intermediate, motivated to obtain required card physical properties for the same use.

For claim 6, Fischer is silent about the amount of difference in adhesion. However, since Fischer teaches the generally same subject matter for the same use as the instant invention, a workable difference in adhesion for achieving different adhesive effects is deemed to be either anticipated by Fischer, or obvious routine optimizations to one skilled in the art of detachable card intermediate, motivated to easily detach the card for the same use.

Response to Argument

6. Applicants argue at Remarks page 12 that

“When the Fischer device is constructed, the peelable adhesive is transferred to the card as the card is removed. This peelable adhesive will cause the removed card to stick to other cards which is a distinct disadvantage.”

However, applicants’ argument contradicts Fischer’s teaching that the detachment from the substrate material 21 has caused layer 22 to lose its stickiness, so that the card 3 is not self-adhesive, and the no longer sticky peeling adhesive layer can be written or printed.

Applicants argue at page 13 that

“amended claim 1 of the present application, the pattern is based on a combination of treated and untreated areas that facilitate the removal of the card without the need to use a peelable adhesive because the adhesive properties of the surface have been modified. The selective adhesion imparted by the pattern, as defined in claim 1, is achieved by creating a surface where certain areas have no treatment and thus no enhanced adhesion as well as other areas which are treated to provide sufficient enhanced adhesion so that the card will not fall off the form prior to when it is desired to remove the card from the surface of the form.”

However, since Fischer teaches that the different adhesive effects with respect to the substrate layer 21 and the outer layer 23 can be achieved by a suitable process control and/or different pretreatment of the surfaces of the layers 21 and 23, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art of surface treatment to select Caputo’s differential treatment pattern, in

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which a selected zone of a surfaced has been corona treated, to obtain the required level of adhesion, because the selection of a known material based on its suitability for its intended use supported a *prima facie* obviousness determination.

Applicants argue at page 14 that

“present amendment points out that a "patterned treated area" is placed on the surface of thin film layer (iv) has selective variable adhesion. Caputo treats a part of the total area of the surface but this area is completely treated and is not treated to form a pattern that extends under a card area or any area that would correspond to the card area of claim 1.”

However, Caputo’s differential treatment relates to a selected zone of a surfaced has been corona treated. The entire area including untreated area is interpreted as a pattern, which contains “alternating areas of easy and tight separation”.

Applicants argue at page 14 that

“The Caputo patent has no relation to the art of making a card intermediate as it is limited to making resealable bags. This fact points to the inescapable conclusion that one skilled in the art would even consider resealable bags in making a card intermediate.”

However, since Caputo relates to methods for control adhesive effects, and Fischer teaches that the different adhesive effects with respect to the substrate layer 21 and the outer layer 23 can be achieved by a suitable process control and/or different pretreatment of the surfaces of the layers 21 and 23, Caputo’s teaching is pertinent, because they are of the same technical field of endeavor.

Applicants argue at page 14 that

“The Caputo flap element 18 is never intended to be removed during the life of the Caputo bag as that would defeat the reason for enhancing the bond strength of the flap anchor to the surface of the bag.”

However, applicants' argument relates the usage of Caputo's bag individually. Since the usage of Caputo's bag is not relied upon, applicants' argument is misplaced.

Applicants argue at page 15 that

“The differential method of Caputo is to completely treat the area where the flap is to be anchored as no differential treatment is applied at that location. The language of claim 1 of the present application requires a patterned treated area to be formed that extends under card area defined by the diecut.”

The entire area including a zone of treated area and untreated area is interpreted as a pattern, as set forth above.

Conclusion

7. Applicant's amendment necessitated the new ground(s) of rejection presented in this Office action. Accordingly, **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL**. See MPEP § 706.07(a). Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the date of this final action.

8. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Victor S. Chang whose telephone number is 571-272-1474. The examiner can normally be reached on 7:00 am - 5:00 pm, Tuesday - Friday.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Rena Dye can be reached on 571-272-3186. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/Victor S Chang/
Primary Examiner, Art Unit 1794